

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously presented): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions to cause a computing system to perform a method comprising:
 - creating a data table in a server database;
 - creating a workflow table in the server database, wherein the workflow table is associated with the data table, wherein each row in the workflow table represents a workflow step containing workflow rules and associated code defined by script functions;
 - receiving a data modification request in the server database;
 - invoking a workflow engine using server database triggers; and
 - evaluating a condition and executing an action for at least one workflow step.
3. (Original): The method of claim 2, wherein evaluating a condition and executing an action for at least one workflow step includes using a script engine which is invoked by the workflow engine.
4. (Previously presented): A workflow system comprising:
 - a server database including a data table and an associated workflow table, the data table includes workflow triggers;
 - a workflow extended store coupled to the server database and to the workflow triggers, the workflow triggers invoke the workflow extended store;
 - a workflow engine coupled to the server database and to the workflow extended store; and
 - a script engine coupled to the workflow engine.

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

5. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein the workflow table is communicatively coupled to the workflow engine.
6. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein each column in the data table comprises a workflow state.
7. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein each row in the workflow table comprises a workflow step.
8. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein the workflow table comprises a set of workflow rules and associated code to be executed by the workflow engine, wherein a workflow table is defined for each data table that needs to enforce integrity of data changes.
9. (Original): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein the extended store comprises a data set having the necessary information to enforce a workflow step.
10. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 4 wherein the workflow engine receives information on a workflow event from the extended store and maps the information against a cached copy of the workflow table and executes an appropriate workflow step.
11. (Previously presented): A workflow system comprising:
 - a server database including a workflow enabled data table and an associated workflow table, wherein each row in the workflow table comprises a workflow step, and the workflow enabled data table includes workflow triggers;
 - a workflow extended store coupled to the server database, where data modifications submitted to the workflow enabled data table invokes the workflow extended store;
 - a workflow engine coupled to the server database, to the workflow extended store, and to the workflow table; and

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

a script engine coupled to the workflow engine.

12. (Original): The workflow system of claim 11, wherein each workflow step is triggered by a workflow event selected from the group comprising state events, transition events, and timeout events.

13. (Original): The workflow system of claim 12, wherein a state event is associated with a single workflow state and is executed every time the event associated with the workflow state is triggered.

14. (Original): The workflow system of claim 13, wherein the execution of a state event depends on how a workflow state is entered or exited.

15. (Original): The workflow system of claim 12, wherein a transition event is associated with a change from a current workflow state to a new workflow state, wherein the current and the new workflow states are defined by a transition workflow step, and wherein the transition event is executed upon a requested state transition where the current and the new workflow state match the transition workflow step.

16. (Original): The workflow system of claim 12, wherein a timeout event is associated with a timeout job, wherein the timeout event can be either a state event or a transition event, and wherein the timeout event is triggered by the timeout job.

17. (Original): A workflow system comprising:

a server database including a data table and an associated workflow table, wherein each row in the workflow table comprises a workflow step, and wherein the system further includes workflow triggers defined on the data table;

a workflow extended store communicatively coupled to the server database, wherein the workflow triggers analyze a data modification request submitted to the data table and invoke the extended store;

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

a workflow engine communicatively coupled to the server database, to the workflow extended store, and to the workflow table; and

a script engine communicatively coupled to the workflow engine.

18. (Cancelled):

19. (Original): The workflow system of claim 17, wherein the system further includes a session object communicatively coupled to the server database, wherein the session object comprises a set of properties for a workflow event, a set of data on the current user, a database user list, and a data set of user permission.

20. (Original): The workflow system of claim 19, wherein the system further includes a number of workflow support functions which operate in conjunction with the session object and implement a number of workflow tasks including sending email and finding a user's manager.

21. (Previously presented): The workflow system of claim 17, wherein the system further includes a timeout agent implemented as a server job, wherein the timeout agent is scheduled to run with a definable frequency, and wherein the timeout agent scans the server database and executes a timeout workflow event when the database indicates such a timeout workflow event is due.

22. (Original): The workflow system of claim 21, wherein the timeout agent performs an update in the data table and triggers an association workflow action upon timeout workflow events which define a state transition.

23. (Original): A computing method comprising:
creating a data table in a server database;
creating a workflow table in the server database, wherein the workflow table is associated with the data table, wherein each row in the workflow table represents a workflow step;

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

receiving a data modification request in the server database;
invoking a workflow engine using server database triggers; and
evaluating a condition and executing an action for each workflow step using a script engine which is invoked by the workflow engine.

24. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein invoking the workflow engine includes comparing the data modification request with a workflow definition in the workflow table and determining the appropriate workflow step to be executed.

25. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein evaluating a condition and executing an action for each workflow step includes checking execution permissions on each workflow step.

26. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein creating a workflow table with each row in the workflow table representing a workflow step includes defining a condition and an action for each workflow step using script functions.

27. (Cancelled):

28. (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein evaluating a condition and executing an action for each workflow step includes committing the data modification request to the data table in the server database.

29. (Previously presented): A computer comprising:
a processor;
a computer-readable medium;
a server database having a workflow enabled data table and an associated workflow table, the workflow enabled data table includes workflow triggers;
a workflow extended store coupled to the server database and the workflow triggers;

09/346,194

MS126578.01/MSFTP238US

a workflow engine coupled to the server database and to the workflow extended store; and

a script engine coupled to the workflow engine.

30 – 39. (Cancelled)